

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) The report of a consultant engaged by the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received. On the basis of the report and discussions, the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has undertaken an internal study to develop a proposal for setting up the institute.

Recommendations of Working Group on IT for Masses

2719. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group on "IT for Masses" set up by his Ministry has submitted its report to Government recently as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 30th July, 2000;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations made by the Group and whether the same is placed before the Cabinet Committee on Information Technology (COT); and

(c) which are the schemes likely to be implemented indicating the budgetary allocations proposed to be made by Centre and State Governments for spreading IT amongst masses particularly IT education infrastructure in 60,000 schools across the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Ministry of Information Technology (MIT) had set up a Working Group on IT for masses which submitted its report to the Minister for IT on 29.7.2000.

The main recommendations of the Working Group are as below:—

— Establish IT infrastructure in 60,000 schools over a period of five years.

— Web enabled citizen oriented Government services.

- Hundred million Internet connection and one million IT Kiosks by 2008 to enable a common man to have access to Internet/IT Services.
- No licences and controls for setting up IT infrastructure and services.
- Promote development of Indian Language content over Internet.
- To launch mass awareness campaign through IT Yatras and other program.
- To set up a IT Mission for 5 years to carry out the programme recommended in the report and follow up other recommendations of the report.
- Compulsory IT literacy for Government recruitment.
- Earmarking upto 5% budget for IT induction in Government.
- State Government Portals to help rural artisans and entrepreneurs.
- Internet Portal for one point Government information and services.
- All Government information to be on Internet.
- All Government Payment on Internet.
- Results of Public examination to be made available on Internet.

The report of the Working Group is under consideration of the Government.

Mushrooming Growth of Private Computer Institutes

2720. SHRI R.P GOENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the mushrooming growth of private computer institutes in the country in view of the wide projected gap between demand and supply for computer professionals;
- (b) whether it is a fact that some institutes are charging high fees even upto Rs. 2 lakhs, varying with courses and some of them are even reported to be fly-by-night operators;